

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

HB445 Senate Committee hearing

Thank You for listening today on this matter that's so important.

I am a farmer from the Golden Triangle area. My husband and I grow old varieties of grains that are public domain. I would hate to see them disappear. The old varieties are also of good milling quality which we feel are superior to the new varieties.

I know these multinational companies have no interest in suing customers they are trying to sell their products to. They also have no concept that some farmers aren't interested in buying or pirating their product. If I don't want their <sup>patented</sup> ~~GMO~~ grain then I shouldn't be forced to buy it and it sure shouldn't be blowing within range of me. I also find it insulting that just because I'm a FARMER, I don't understand basic biology of pollination by wind, wildlife and/or insects that are possible for a distance of several miles!

For example, I have a neighbor to the north of me that has a considerable leafy spurge problem. Due to spring runoff in the coulee, deer, antelope and most likely insects, I now have a leafy spurge problem! I know of no person, corporation or government, accusing me of stealing his leafy spurge seed. I didn't buy it or steal it from him in anyway. I also want to believe that he tried to keep it from spreading on to my land. He didn't ask me to buy his spurge seed and I don't think he was out and about in the dark of night spreading the stuff in my coulee. In fact I would be darn glad to give the seed back!

Now the difference I can see here is that no big corporation can make money off the stuff or wants control of the weed supply.

Not all of us want a Monsanto, Bayer or Syngenta <sup>patented</sup> ~~GMO~~ product. I'm just trying to protect my farm from <sup>unwanted</sup> ~~GMO~~ seed and big multinational companies ignoring my property rights, so I ask you to vote for the Farm Protection Bill.

~~If you go to Monsanto's website, you'll notice they're bragging about taking down 100 farmers per year!~~

~~They also brag about the finest ORGANIC MISO MURRAY in their headquarters in ST. Louis!~~

Dolores Turner

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March 17, 2009

To the Members of the Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee:

My name is Russ Wahl and I have been farming on the High-Line for the past 31 years. I am a member of the Montana Grain Growers Association as well as the Montana Farmer's Union.

I have read HB 445 and it appears to me to be a fair and reasonable bill that recognizes the personal property rights of local farmers, and in my opinion does not infringe on the rights of corporations who are in the business of patenting their genetic modifications. Their rights to full and fair compensation in the event of illegal use of patented seed genetics is clearly protected in this bill.

I believe farmers, whether ultimately determined guilty or innocent of illegally using patented seeds, should be allowed to observe and participate in the sampling of their fields as well as being informed of the test results of those samples by a reputable independent lab. In my view this bill affirms the US Constitution's Fourth Amendment rights of the citizens of this state. HB 445 simply recognizes the privacy and property rights of myself and other farmers throughout the State of Montana.

Please vote in favor of HB 445.

Sincerely,

Russ Wahl

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